

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07
L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT/RAMOSHER:NLS

APPROVED BY EUR - AARMITAGE

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-----121832Z 024382 /47

O 121815Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032690

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, BU, IT

SUBJECT:ATTENDANCE AT DEAN'S WREATH-LAYING AT DIMITROV'S
TOMB

REF: (A) SOFIA 0237; (B) SOFIA 0285 (NOTAL)

1. REF (A) DID INDEED CROSS WITH STATE 026362.

2. OUR VIEW OF THIS MATTER (AS EXPRESSED IN ARMITAGE-HERZ
LETTER OF 10/2/74) HAS BEEN THAT WE SHOULD NOT LAY
WREATHS HONORING DIMITROV AND ONLY PARTICIPATE IN
CEREMONIES HONORING HIM IF NOT DOING SO WOULD INVOLVE
GIVING OFFENSE (TO BULGARIANS, OF COURSE). SUCH
PRACTICE IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT AT OTHER POSTS, SUCH AS
MOSCOW AND PRAGUE, REGARDING OTHER COMPARABLE COMMUNIST
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FIGURES.

3. WHILE DIMITROV MAY NOW HAVE ASSUMED STATURE OF
NATIONAL SYMBOL IN BULGARIA, THERE IS LITTLE IF ANYTHING
ABOUT EITHER HIM PERSONALLY OR THE PERIOD OF BULGARIAN
HISTORY WITH WHICH HE IS IDENTIFIED WHICH MERITS OUR
HOMAGE. IT WAS, AFTER ALL, DIMITROV WHO PRESIDED OVER

BCP'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER AND ELIMINATION OF DEMOCRATIC
OPPOSITION, INCLUDING EXPULSION OF DR. DIMITROV AND EX-
ECUTION OF NIKOLAI PETKOV.

4. WE WOULD THINK THAT GOB WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCUSTOMED
BY NOW TO CONTINUING ABSENCE OF US AND OTHER NATO
REPRESENTATIVES FROM CEREMONIES HONORING DIMITROV (YOUR
LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1974). AS YOU HAVE INDICATED,
GOB SEEMS MORE OR LESS TO HAVE ACCEPTED LAYING OF WREATHS
AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN RESISTANCE FIGHTER AS ALTERNATIVE
FOR VISITING VIP'S.

5. IN ABSENCE OF INDICATIONS THAT LONG-STANDING
PRACTICE OF NATO REPS IN SOFIA ON THIS SCORE IS CAUSING
DIFFICULTIES OR OFFENSE TO BULGARIANS (WHICH WE ARE
INCLINED TO DIFFERENTIATE FROM NATO AMBASSADORS'
EMBARASSMENT), WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT CHANGE
IN PRACTICE IS NOT WARRANTED AT THIS TIME.

6. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING FROM NATO AMBASSADORS
IN SOFIA ANY INDICATIONS OR LACK THEREOF OF BULGARIAN
REACTIONS WHICH SUGGEST NATO AMBASSADORS' ABSENCE
GIVES GOB UNDUE OFFENSE.

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Message Attributes

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